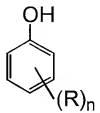
IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

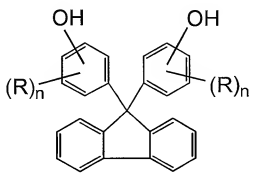
1. (*Previously Presented*): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



(I)

wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4, and the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises phenol or a C_{1-4}alkylphenol,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a mercaptocarboxylic acid and a 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II)



(II)

wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3, the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3 and an extractant is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to

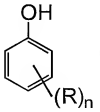
distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

2. (*Canceled)*

3. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises a 2-C_{1-4}alkylphenol or a 3-C_{1-4}alkylphenol.

4. - 8. (*Canceled*).

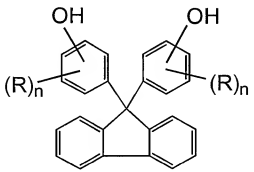
9. (*Previously presented*): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



(I)

wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a thiol and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II):



(II)

wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3.0 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the thiol is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3.

10. (*Canceled*):

11. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 9, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1/0.3 to 1/2.

12. – 13. (*Canceled*):

14. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of (weight ratio) fluorenone relative to thiol is 1/0.08 to 1/0.15.

15. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 5 to 37% by weight.

16. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 15, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 25 to 37% by weight.

17. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 30 to 37% by weight.

18. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 9, wherein the thiol is a mercaptocarboxylic acid.

19. (*Previously Presented*): The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

adding an extractant to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and

adding a crystallization solvent to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

20. (*Currently Amended*): A method for producing a 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C_{1-4}alkylphenyl)fluorene, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a C_{1-4}alkylphenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with β-mercaptopropionic ~~ÿ-mercaptopropionic~~ acid and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain the 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C_{1-4}alkylphenyl)fluorine, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the β-mercaptopropionic ~~ÿ-mercaptopropionic~~ acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to β-mercaptopropionic ~~ÿ-mercaptopropionic~~ acid is 1/0.05 to 1/0.3.